

A TRIP TO MONTANA

"Melissa! Are you packed and ready to go?" Mother called down the hallway. "Yes, I am, Mother. I can't [wait/ toot/ your] to get on the plane. I've [hopped/ packed/ never] plenty of blue jeans and I [clap/ food/ even] borrowed some cowboy boots from Susan [job/ to/ gel] take with me," replied Melissa.

Thirty minutes [seen/ just/ later], she was on the airplane soaring [needs/ above/ seem] New York City. As she watched, [note/ play/ the] tops of tall skyscrapers disappeared from [what/ says/ view], and her mind began [to/ may/ can] drift to the mountains in Montana.

Gran [and/ rest/ deal] Papa lived on a small ranch [tame/ near/ help] Great Falls. The whole piece of [land/ diet/ from] was actually only ten acres, but [an/ kid/ to] Melissa, who lived in an apartment [been/ with/ there] her mother, it was as big [odd/ sat/ as] Central Park!

Papa had five horses [rings/ hello/ that] he and Gran loved to ride [on/ as/ for] the ranch. Melissa's favorite horse was Lady Tylark, [get/ the/ you] graceful, honey-colored mare. She had [this/ not/ time] been to visit her grandparents since [grow/ peep/ last] Christmas and worried that Lady Tylark [might/ hold/ free] have forgotten her. Melissa decided to [round/ take/ from] some sugar cubes and an apple immediately [upon/ like/ book] arrival to renew her friendship with [sit/ bog/ her] favorite horse.

As she stepped off [lot/ the/ said] plane, she spied the snow- white [hair/ stop/ off] of Papa in the crowd and [where/ rushed/ twenty] down the ramp to his welcoming [arms/

new/ came]. Gran was waiting outside with the [car/ tree/ ring] engine running and whisked them home [ten/ of/ to] the ranch.

They pulled into the [rope/ cast/ long] driveway, and at the top of the [hill/ fat/ soy] was the red brick house, just [mat/ dot/ as] Melissa had remembered it. She unpacked [stop/ into/ her] clothes and put on blue jeans, [on/ a/ me] white cotton shirt, and cowboy boots. Papa [sip/ was/ one] impressed with her outfit. "I'm glad [you/ plan/ hard] thought to bring boots," he said, "because Gran [play/ and/ use] I planned to take you on [a/ in/ us] picnic for lunch. Of course that [will/ nose/ cold] include a trail ride."

"May I [bell/ ride/ far] Lady Tylark, Papa?" asked Melissa. "If she'll [him/ look/ let] you," he replied. "She may not remember [full/ very/ you]."

Melissa was crestfallen. Gran tried to [cheer/ howl/ many] her up by asking her to [help/ song/ done] pack lunch. Melissa slowly wrapped the sandwiches [am/ we/ in] plastic bags while Gran packed fruit [and/ sit/ you] crackers.

As she walked to the [hood/ barn/ fish], she noticed that Papa had saddled [jar/ the/ fur] horses. Lady Tylark was standing impatiently, whisking [flies/ sing/ west] with her tail. Melissa held out [her/ won/ time] hand. In it she had three [cloud/ sugar/ chest] cubes. At first, Lady did not [pay/ have/ yes] her any attention. Then, she slowly sniffed [at/ us/ saw] her hand and finally ate the [mean/ sugar/ gets] cubes. She finished her treat by licking Melissa's [flood/ milk/ hand] clean!

Melissa was overjoyed. She knew she had won her friend back. "I think this will be the best vacation ever!" she said, smiling at her grandparents.